THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDC) has conducted a market survey. The projected market potential being not very encouraging, NMDC is exploring the possibility of advance sales tie up before taking up test work and preparation of project report.

Nuclear island

2391. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any plan to make "Koodankulam" a Nuclear island;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the Koodankulam Atomic Power Station would start supplying power and what would be its capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) Two nuclear power reactors of 1000 MW each are presently under construction at Koodankulam, Tamil Nadu in co-operation with the Russian Federation. The site has potential for setting up additional units.

(c) The commercial operation of the units is planned for December 2007 and December 2008 respectively, and the station capacity by December 2008 will be 2000 MW.

Transfer of officials in NCL

†2392. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of those group A and B officials in Jayant project of Northern Coal Fields Limited, Madhya Pradesh who have been working in the same sections against the same posts and for the last 3,5 or 7 years separately;

(b) the rules regarding the transfer of officials and engineers working in Coal India;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.